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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (DEH)
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION (HMD)

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"Environmental and Public Health through leadership, partnership and science"

CHIEF'S NOTES

By Michael Dorsey, HMD Chief

Many times the only experience a business will have with a regulatory agency is a facility inspection. For this reason, some business owners or operators may find the inspection process unsettling or even intimidating, especially if their business has never been inspected. Over the past few years the Hazardous Materials Division (HMD) has made a concerted effort to increase stakeholder input and educational outreach in order to allow the regulated community various forums to exchange viewpoints and get to know our agency and staff outside of the inspection process. In this past fiscal year alone, HMD staff participated in over 25 regulatory and/or industry association events providing outreach to over 1700 attendees. The following are some of our key stakeholder workgroups created to obtain industry input, increase dialogue, and assist with outreach efforts:

- **Business Community Workgroup** – established to improve communication with regulated industry and create a process to identify Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) program improvements.
- **Hazardous Waste Tank Workgroup** – established to ensure uniform, consistent and equitable ways to implement Article 10 in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.
- **Medical Waste Management Workgroup** – established to assist small medical waste generators such as dental offices, veterinary clinics and small medical practices better understand the medical waste management requirements.
- **Cal/EPA Environmental Protection Indicators for California (EPIC) Pilot project** – a pilot project to demonstrate the effectiveness of education in obtaining compliance.
- **Cost Reduction/Cost Containment/Cost Avoidance Work Team** – established to evaluate ways to reduce, contain, and avoid costs.

HMD'S FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Romina López

Romina is an Environmental Health Specialist for the Unified Program in HMD. She conducts compliance inspections in the south bay area of the county and coordinates with US Customs at the Otay Mesa border to conduct hazardous materials inspections of transporters.

Romina and her siblings were born and raised in Tijuana, Mexico by her mother, who at an early age instilled in her children the desire to attend college. School was always very important in the López family, so when Romina and her siblings graduated from high school in Tijuana they moved to San Diego to attend college.

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Our website provides valuable information for regulated businesses, including such topics as overviews of HMD's regulatory programs, pollution prevention, plan check and emergency response. Also on our website are the various forms businesses are required to complete for their hazardous materials business plan, hazardous waste and tiered permitting requirements, and underground storage tank requirements. Most of these forms are available as Word-interactive forms.

Many businesses may not be aware but HMD has a Duty Environmental Health Specialist available to answer general and technical questions, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (619) 338- 2231. The Duty Specialist answers an average of 3, 000 calls annually.

In this article, I have only provided a snapshot summary of the educational and outreach activities this division is doing to assist businesses in understanding their regulatory requirements. There are many other activities we are doing. One of the most important of these is the ongoing educational effort each specialist provides during his/her normal routine business inspections. Although the overall responsibility to be in compliance rests with each individual business, HMD has been and continues to be committed to providing educational information through various media and forums, assisting businesses in meeting their responsibilities.

Unified Program Facility Permit Basics

By Mike McCullough, Environmental Health Specialist II

As most of you know, the HMD regulates establishments that handle hazardous materials in certain thresholds (55 gallons of a liquid, 500 pounds of a solid, 200 cubic feet of a gas), generate hazardous waste, have underground storage tanks (UST's), and/or generate medical waste. A Unified Program Facility Permit, formerly known as a Hazardous Materials Health Permit, is required of all establishments that fall into any of the above categories.

What is the Unified Program?

The Unified Program was created by CalEPA to consolidate, coordinate and make consistent the administrative requirements, permits, inspections and enforcement activities for six environmental and emergency management programs. The HMD is the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for the County of San Diego. That means that under one single permit we regulate six programs that deal with hazardous materials, hazardous waste and underground storage tanks. Additionally, the HMD also regulates medical waste under the same Unified Program.

Why is it important to obtain a Unified Program Facility Permit?

Completing all of the notification requirements for a Unified Program Facility Permit provides vital information to emergency responders. This information is very valuable in the case of an emergency such as fire, an earthquake, or chemical release. Being aware of the hazards that are present at permitted facilities allows first responders to better protect the residents of the County.

How is this information collected and provided to Emergency Responders?

During field inspections, Environmental Health Specialists verify and gather information about the storage of hazardous materials and the generation of medical and hazardous waste. This information is collected in a database that is updated after inspections and when businesses submit changes to their hazardous materials inventory. Emergency responders receive monthly paper updates and quarterly updates on compact disk, so information is available in laptops during emergency runs.

How do businesses benefit from having a permit?

First of all, operating without a Unified Program Facility Permit when one is required is a misdemeanor. Having a Unified Program Facility permit allows businesses to be in contact with their Area Specialist and obtain first-hand information about their regulatory requirements, pollution prevention and best management practices for their operations. By having a permit, businesses enter into the inspection program, where Area Specialists routinely visit most businesses to determine compliance with laws and regulations, advise business operators about changes to regulatory requirements, provide referrals to other regulatory agencies, give advice on other environmental areas; and explain how to return to compliance if violations are identified during inspection. HMD maintains a Duty Desk to answer questions every working day between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The HMD also has informational handouts and other resources. Contact your Area Specialist or the Duty Desk for more information.

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How does the Community benefit from these permits?

The oversight from the permit and inspection process helps prevent hazardous materials from being disposed of into the environment, promotes recycling for hazardous wastes where it's an option, and encourages businesses to be better informed. Information is the key to safety for businesses, their employees, emergency responders and the community.

How can you obtain a Unified Program Facility Permit?

Completing a Unified Program Facility Permit application is the first step in obtaining a permit. The form is available at HMD's website and can also be obtained by calling the Hazardous Materials Duty Desk at 619-338-2231. The permit application gathers information about the type of activities performed at the business and requires the signature of an authorized person. After the application is submitted, an Environmental Health Specialist from HMD will visit the establishment to perform an initial inspection. The inspector will explain the regulatory requirements and assist the business with completing paperwork that may be required.

The permit application, the inspection report and related information is submitted to HMD's permit clerks for processing. This process generates an invoice for the permit fees which will be sent to the place of business. After payment of the permit fees is received, a Unified Program Facility Permit will be mailed to the business. The permit must be renewed annually by paying permit fees on or before the expiration date. A permit renewal notice is sent 7-8 weeks before the permit expires.

How are my permit fees determined and used?

Permit fees are set to cover the cost of implementing the Unified Program. HMD follows a fee accountability procedure that determines the cost of implementing the Unified Program and fees are set accordingly. HMD meets annually with industry, small businesses and other stakeholders to review the budget, identify cost savings and justify any fee changes that may be needed due to added regulatory demands for the program. Together with stakeholders, the HMD works every year to become the most efficient organization it can be. The HMD is almost entirely supported by permit fees and relies on very little outside funding from the general fund or other sources. The fees HMD collects pay for the services provided in the form of inspections and information.

How are the fees for each site calculated?

HMD Health Permit fees are based on the type of business and the quantity and number of hazardous materials, hazardous waste, medical waste, or

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Unified Program Facility Permit Basics

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underground storage tanks at the business. Additionally, there are CUPA fees, which are set by CalEPA. HMD submits this portion of the permit fees to CalEPA. A fee schedule is mailed with each invoice. A fee schedule can also be faxed or mailed upon request.

What can I do if there are changes in my business activities?

The State Health and Safety Code requires that you notify the local agency (HMD) in writing when you:

- Close your business
- Move or relocate your business
- Change the quantities or types of hazardous waste and hazardous materials in your establishment.

Promptly notifying the HMD of changes ensures that you will not be held liable for permit fees assessed to a closed location after you move and your permit expires. Notifying the HMD of changes in chemical inventory is very important to update emergency responders about the hazards at your facility. Notifying the HMD of business relocation before you move will expedite the issuance of your new permit. Notification of any significant change is required within 30 days of the change.

What happens when a permit is not renewed on time?

It is very important that your permit is paid on or before the expiration date to avoid penalties. If you are paying by mail, be sure to allow several days for mail delivery. Penalties help pay for the added work that is required for staff to collect delinquent permit fees. A $50 penalty fee is assessed on the day after your permit expires. If you don't pay within 30 days after your permit expires, an additional penalty of $100 is assessed. So, basically, 31 days after your permit expires, another $150 are added to your cost. HMD is authorized and required to assess these fees by the San Diego County Code of Ordinances.

As a last resort, HMD is forced to take enforcement actions against businesses that do not pay their Permit fees. These enforcement actions include Small Claims Court. This is done to prevent delinquent establishments from having an unfair business advantage over those that pay their permit fees. It helps level the playing field for the 95% of the businesses that do pay their fees on time. HMD has a very good track record in winning these cases because the laws requiring permits and fees are very clear. Business that are taken to Small Claims Court often end up paying more than the original permit fee in court service fees. They also risk harming their credit records. In addition, businesses that refuse to pay permit fees may be forced to close until the fees are paid in full.

Any other questions about permits?

These are just the basics. If you have any more questions on permitting or related issues, please call the Hazardous Materials Duty Desk at 619-338-2231.

DEH and CEHA

Over Twenty Years Recognizing Youth in San Diego County

By Edward Slater, Supervising Env. Health Specialist

The Department of Environmental Health (DEH) and the California Environmental Health Association (CEHA) have partnered for more than 20 years to recognize the efforts of young students at the Greater San Diego Science and Engineer Fair. Together, these two organizations provide judges, interview students and review their environmental health projects to select two winners for each of the Junior and Senior Divisions.

The winners, along with their parents or teachers, are treated to lunch at a CEHA meeting where they are awarded a cash prize of about $200 to assist with their continuing education. In addition they receive a certificate signed by the director of DEH and the president of CEHA. Students often bring their project boards to the CEHA luncheon meeting and provide an overview of their projects following the awards presentation.

It is impressive to see these young students using the scientific method to conduct investigations about environmental problems that affect us all. Past Science Fair projects have included: studies of urbanstorm water run off, heavy metal pollution in San Diego Bay, and air pollution in San Diego County. They have measured the effectiveness of various hand cleaners on bacteria, determined which detergents work better on remediating oil spills, and evaluated the use of recycled paper in insulating materials and determined the effects of radiation on destroying bacteria in ground beef. And the list goes on and on.

Being DEH's head judge has been a rewarding experience. I started in 1995, when I took over from George McCandless, another employee who actually started DEH's involvement and managed the program for over eight years. Every year there are at least 100 projects related to environmental health. Annually there are more than 1, 000 entries in all fields of science and engineering.

The best part of the fair for me is meeting the students and being able to share their enthusiasm for their projects. When I start discussing a student's project it really is difficult for me to move onto the next project, but it is imperative to move along, as the two hours allotted for judging goes by very quickly. The Science Fair is now held in the Balboa Park Activity Building located on Presidents Way in Balboa Park. There are several days set aside for public viewing of the exhibits. Dates and times are listed in daily newspapers.

This year the 2004 Science Fair marked the 50th anniversary of the event; a visit is certainly worth your time.

Thomas Hammerly's project (above) determined the effects of irradiation on pathogenic bacteria found in ground beef.

2004 DEH/CEHA Winners

CEHA/DEH Senior Winner
Liliana Guzman
San Diego High School

DEH Junior Award Winner
Rachel Phalan,
Prospect Avenue School, Santee

CEHA Junior Winner
Thomas Hammerly
Saint Mary's School, El Centro

WASTE CONTAINERS

Best Management Practices

Third Part in a Series of Four

Managing and Labeling Containers

By Manon E. Maschue
Env. Health Specialist II

If you are a hazardous waste generator you must characterize the wastes you generate at your facility and store these wastes appropriately while awaiting disposal. The containers* that you use to store hazardous waste must be labeled with a hazardous waste label providing information about the type and characteristics of the wastes stored. Identifying the contents and hazardous characteristics helps protect people who are not familiar with the business processes. These people include custodians, security guards and emergency responders. Identifying the date when a container is first used helps prevent exceeding allowable accumulation times.

Accumulation Time Limits

The amount of time your facility is allowed to accumulate waste on site varies by the amount of waste your facility produces in any month. For more information, consult the regulations found in CCR, Title 22, Division 4, Division 4.5, Chapter 12, Article 3, Section 66262.34. A summary of accumulation time limits is found below.

Large Quantity Generators (LQG)

LQGs generate more than 1,000 kilograms (kg) of hazardous waste or more than 1 kg of either acutely or extremely hazardous waste** in any calendar month. A LQG has 90 days from the date of first accumulation (the accumulation start date) to offer the waste for transportation. A 90-day extension may be granted if the conditions and requirements of Title 22, section 66262.35 are met.

Small Quantity Generators (SQG)

SQGs generate less than 1000 kg of hazardous waste in any calendar month, and never accumulate more than 6000 kg of waste onsite. If your facility is in this category and you transport your own waste or offer it for transportation over a distance of 200 miles, you can store the waste up to 270 days from the time accumulation started. If the transportation distance is less than 200 miles away, you can store up to 180 days. This accumulation time limit is an option that can also be used by CESQGs.

*A container is a portable device used to accumulate waste. Stationary tanks, trenches, floor sumps and waste piles are NOT considered containers.

**See CCR 66261.33(e) for a list of acutely hazardous waste.

Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQGs)

CESQGs generate less than 100 kg of hazardous waste or less than one kg of acutely or extremely hazardous waste in any calendar month. If your business falls into this category, your allowable accumulation time is longer than LQGs and SQGs. For this group of generators, wastes can be stored for 90 days after the accumulation time begins. The 90-day accumulation period begins on the date when the first 100 kg of waste were accumulated.

Exceeding the storage time limits imposes additional stringent requirements that include obtaining an interim status permit from DTSC as a fully regulated storage facility. Waste stored for an excessive time period is more likely to leak from deteriorated containers. Accumulation of excessive quantities of waste may overwhelm your ability to access, inspect, and manage the waste properly.

Labeling Requirements

Although California regulations require different storage limits depending on the type and amount of hazardous waste generated in any given month, labeling requirements for all containers are the same. Hazardous waste containers must have the words "HAZARDOUS WASTE" clearly printed on the container or label and include the following information:

- **Generator information** (including the name and address for the generator at that location)
- **Physical state** of the waste (liquid or solid)
- **Contents or composition** of the waste clearly marked (such as "used oil" or "chlorinated solvent")
- **Hazardous properties** (such as toxic, flammable, reactive, corrosive, etc.)
- **Accumulation start date** (date the first waste was put into the container)

Be sure to remove or mark out old labeling if you are reusing a container.

Satellite Accumulation Points (SAPs)

SAPs are another waste accumulation option available to businesses. This option allows storage of up to 55 gallons of waste for as long as one year. SAPs are subject to these storage rules:

- Containers must be in good condition (non-rusty, non-leaking, no structural defects such as denting or bulging).
- Wastes and containers must be compatible.
- Containers must be handled so the waste is not spilled and the container is not ruptured. The container must be closed while in storage.
- Containers must meet the hazardous waste container labeling requirements.

In order to designate an area as a SAP, the area must be:

- Located **at or near** the point of waste accumulation, and
- SAP must be under the **control of the person** actually **generating** the waste stream.

To be a SAP, the storage area cannot be used to temporarily store wastes generated by other (more remote) waste streams. Exceeding storage time limits or quantity limits makes it more likely that waste will leak, spill, or be illegally disposed .

When 55 gallons of a waste stream are accumulated in a SAP, you have three days to mark it with a complete hazardous waste label and move it to your 90-day waste storage area. Be advised that waste in SAPs cannot be accumulated onsite longer than one year without a storage facility permit from the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

Conclusion

Label hazardous waste containers and limit storage times as outlined in this article. Schedule for regular waste disposal based on the amount of waste you generate (LQG, SQG, or CESQG).

Approximate conversions that may help you determine your hazardous waste generator status.

kilograms	gallons***	pounds
1	0.27	2.2
100	27	220
1, 000	270	2, 200
6, 000	1, 620	13, 200

*** Liquid with same specific gravity as water

Coming soon:

Part 4)
Managing/Inspecting the storage area

Hazardous Waste Tank Workgroup Update

By Jim Henderson
Environmental Health Specialist III

The HMD, as the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for San Diego County, works in partnerships with businesses and industry through several working groups. These groups help establish a working relationship between the CUPA and Industry, disseminate information about upcoming regulatory requirements, and identify the service needs of the regulated community.

One of such groups is the Hazardous Waste Tank Workgroup, which was established in August of 2002. This group combines the expertise of HMD's senior staff and industry representatives. The goal of the workgroup is to discuss and evaluate regulation and enforcement issues related to hazardous waste tanks and identify ways to implement these regulations in the industrial setting.

Early workgroup meetings focused on definitions, evaluated the scope and intent of the hazardous waste tank requirements, and identified the differences or gray areas of interpretation between Industry and the CUPA. Early results identified significant differences in interpretation of how and when these regulations should be applied. It took several meetings to reach a consensus in the definition of a "tank".

What are the main issues?

As the workgroup continued to press forward it became clear that one of the main issues of concern was the cost associated with retrofitting existing systems. The costs of providing secondary containment and engineering assessments for tanks and components treating dilute aqueous wastewater were of especial concern, particularly when such systems included sumps and trenches.

Industry felt the costs and disruptions associated with these requirements were excessive in relation to the risks associated with these tanks and was of the opinion that hazardous waste tank regulations were not intended to be applied to such systems. The workgroup explored alternatives such as recommending changes to regulations and making changes to enforcement policies. Various examples of tank systems were discussed using scenarios and photo banks to stimulate discussion. The challenge for the group was to be able to find a way to ease the regulatory burden on facilities while still meeting the regulatory requirements.

These discussions and the goodwill of the workgroup participants proved effective at focusing parties on the issues and developing a process for evaluating the different scenarios identified. After significant discussions on definitions, the participants have reached agreement on some topics such as Point of Generation, while others such as the definition of a "Tank" still remain elusive. Detailed review of the existing regulations for engineering assessments and secondary containment also provided some insight into existing mechanisms for variances or exceptions that already appear in the regulations.

After much deliberation, the workgroup effectively bypassed disagreements to develop and refine a process for evaluating hazardous waste tanks and hazardous waste tank system components by means of a "Risk Based Evaluation Process" (RBEP).

What is the RBEP?

The concept behind this process is there are some existing hazardous waste tank systems or components that pose less of a hazard or risk to human health and the environment than others and that perhaps these low risk systems could be excluded from full regulation.

After months of trial and error, a set of evaluation criteria with a scoring mechanism was developed and tested. The scoring mechanism includes 19 evaluation factors. These evaluation criteria can be used by facilities to score their hazardous waste tank system or component. When the results show a low risk, such as in the case of a well designed and managed hazardous waste tank system with low volumes of dilute aqueous waste, the facility might be eligible for a variance.

If the results of the tank system evaluation show a low risk, the facility might be eligible for a variance

Where do we go from here?

The current focus of the workgroup is to develop implementation procedures to outline how to apply for, receive, and document the variances. It is also expected that by defining the RBEP, other issues like definitions and regulatory applicability will be easier to resolve. We will keep you informed of the progress of this ongoing process in future issues of the Environmental Press.

A Step-by-Step Guide to Tiered Permitting

By John Misleh, Supervising Env. Health Specialist

Hazardous waste generators may treat certain hazardous wastes onsite as allowed by the California law under the Tiered Permitting Program. Onsite treatment can help reduce or eliminate the volume and hazardous characteristics of the waste and can significantly reduce the amount spent in hazardous waste disposal. This program allows for treatment of certain waste streams by specific treatment methods. Tiered Permitting requirements only apply when the treated wastes are hazardous. If wastes are non-hazardous and they are only being treated to meet industrial waste discharge requirements, onsite treatment requirements do not apply. In you are considering treating hazardous waste onsite, following these basic steps will help you maintain compliance with Tiered Permitting requirements:

1. Complete notification forms

Obtain tiered permitting notification forms from HMD's website, the Hazardous Materials Duty Desk or your Specialist. Take the time to read and understand the forms and instructions. Determine which tier applies to the type of waste you generate and the treatment method you plan to use. Be observant of the quantity limits listed in the forms.

2. Pre-notify

The law requires pre-notification of hazardous waste treatment to the local regulatory agency. Complete and sign the forms and mail them to the HMD 60 days before you begin treating hazardous waste onsite.

3. Treat in proper units

Conduct waste treatment only in tanks or containers. Treatment of waste in other types of devices may be restricted or prohibited by law.

4. Use adequate containment

Provide secondary containment if required. Certain waste treatment units, especially for treatment under conditional authorization and permit by rule must have adequate secondary containment. For specific requirements, see California Code of Regulations, Title 22, §66265.193.

5. Keep records available

Maintain operating instructions and treatment records for at least 3 years. Records should include a record of dates, amounts, and types of wastes treated. Also required are written operating instructions with directions on how to operate the treatment unit(s) and carry out waste treatment activities.

6. Manage treatment residuals properly

Ensure that treatment residuals are properly managed and accounted for. If hazardous, treatment residuals must be placed in a labeled tank or container and properly stored and disposed of.

7. Observe quantity limitations

Treatment onsite for certain waste streams has volume limitations for treatment under a specified tier. If you substantially increase or decrease the amount of hazardous waste treated onsite, you may fall under a different tier and will need to amend your notification to HMD. Likewise, if the hazard characteristics of the wastes treated onsite change from what you disclosed in your original notification, an amended notification may be required.

8. Meet financial assurance requirements

Financial assurance is required for some generators that treat waste onsite. This ensures that that facilities operating under conditional authorization and permit by rule have funds set aside to properly close and decontaminate the waste treatment units and areas of the facility where treatment was conducted. If required for your facility, prepare a written estimate of the cost to close each treatment unit. This estimate must be adjusted annually for inflation.

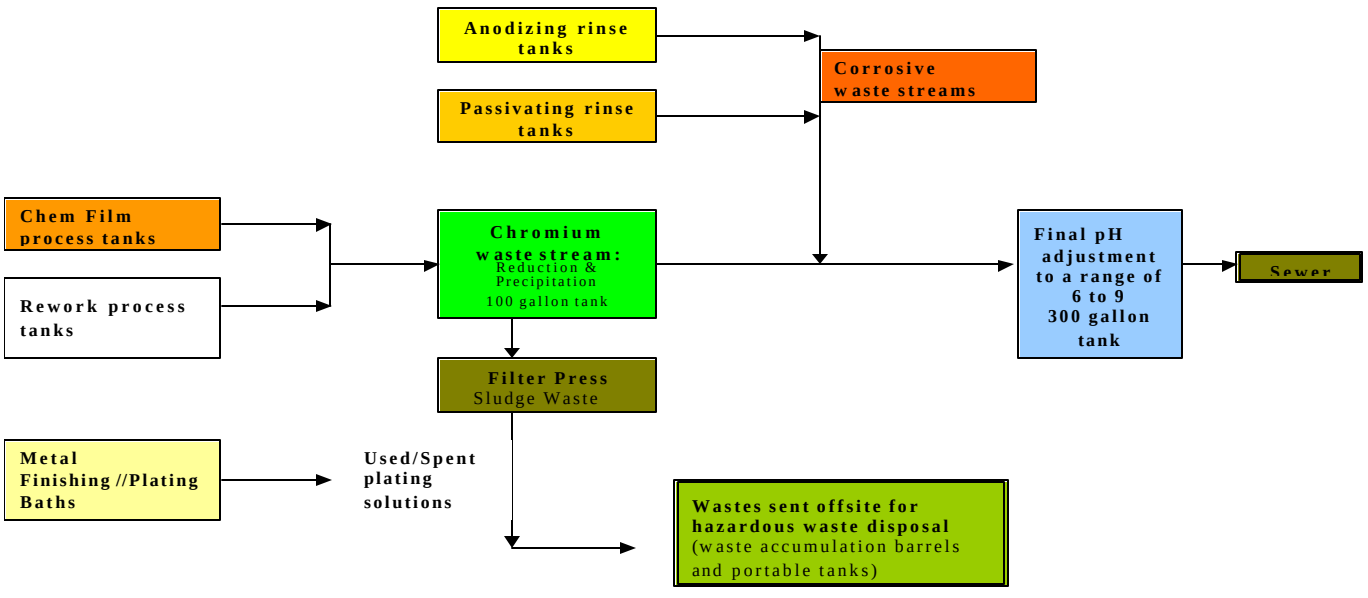
These steps are not all inclusive. Depending on the treatment tier and types of wastes you treat onsite, there may be other requirements that must be followed in order to maintain compliance. You can find more tiered permitting information at the following Web sites:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control Web site-Find information about hazardous waste regulations http://www.dtsc.ca.gov

Santa Clara County's hazardous waste Web page- Useful information regarding hazardous waste management including self-audit checklists http://www.unidocs.org/hazmat/hazardous-waste/index.html

You can find all Tiered Permitting notification forms at **HMD's Web site**, see http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/hmd/

In this diagram of a typical anodizing line, hazardous waste is treated onsite. Treatment in this flowchart includes neutralization of corrosive wastes, reduction of chromium and precipitation of heavy metals. This treatment reduces the amount of hazardous wastes that must be sent offsite for disposal, which in turn results in cost savings for the business.



Engineering Assessment Requirements for Hazardous Waste Tanks

By Lisa Leondis,
Environmental Health Specialist III

The HMD began enforcing the requirements for hazardous waste tank(s)/tank systems in 1999. Since then, facilities have been required to provide secondary containment and/or a professional engineering certification attesting to the integrity of most tank systems, especially new tanks.

"New" and "Existing" Tanks

These terms are used to determine which regulations apply. Generally, tank systems installed before July 1, 1991 are considered "existing," while those installed or modified after that date are considered "new." The applicable code sections are CCR 66265.191 for existing tank systems and 66265.192 for new tanks.

What's Required?

New tank systems require secondary containment and a professional engineering (PE) assessment every five years. Existing tank systems installed without secondary containment are required to have an annual PE certification. Existing tank systems installed with secondary containment are exempt from the PE certification requirement.

Selecting an Engineer

There are many engineering firms and many types of engineers. Regulations require the engineer to be registered as a professional engineer in the state of California. An engineer must also be independent, meaning that he or she is not regularly employed by the firm hiring them to certify the tank system.

When selecting an engineer, ask how many hazardous waste tank system assessments they have done. Ask whether their reports were accepted by HMD as being complete.

What Is Included In A "Tank System?

Tanks, ancillary equipment and sumps are the most common components of a tank system. "Tank system" means a hazardous waste transfer, storage or treatment tank and its associated ancillary equipment and containment system. [22 CCR 66260.10]

A "tank" is a stationary device, designed to contain hazardous waste and constructed of non-earthen materials providing structural support. A filter press meets the definition of a tank.

"Ancillary equipment" includes, but is not limited to, piping, valves and pumps, used to distribute or control the flow of hazardous waste **from its point of generation** to a storage or treatment tank, between hazardous waste storage and treatment tanks to a point of disposal onsite, or to a point of shipment for disposal offsite.

A sump is any pit that meets the definition of "tank" that collects hazardous waste for transport to hazardous waste storage or treatment. There are three types of sumps, depending on their use:

1. **Emergency containment** -
   Sumps that are used for emergency containment are exempt from secondary containment and PE certification if they are kept clean and dry except after rare and unpredictable events.
2. **Secondary containment**
   Sumps that are used as secondary containment must meet all secondary containment standards.
3. **Primary containment**
   Sumps used as primary containment routinely accumulate waste and therefore are regulated as tanks.

Let's consider an example:

A corrosive waste (with a pH greater than 12.5 or less than 2) is discharged into a sump that is pumped into a pipe conveying waste to a tank, but the waste is diluted before it even reaches a treatment tank.

What is included in the tank system? The sump, pipe and tank are all part of this hazardous waste tank system.

Certification Statement

An independent, professional engineer, registered in California, must certify the tank system assessment with the following wording:

"I certify under penalty of perjury of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing violations." [22CCR 66270.11(d)]

Most Common Deficiencies Seen in PE Certifications

- Failure to address all aspects of the required report: all parts of CCR 66265.192(k) for "new" tank systems, or all parts of 66265.191(g) for "existing" tank systems.
- Evaluations of some components in the tank system report are omitted.
- The proper certification statement language is not included.
- Failure to evaluate the entire tank system (piping from the points of generation to the tanks are often neglected)
- The results of the tightness testing required by 66265.192 (k)(10) or the results of the leak test/ inspection required by 66265.191 (g)(9) are omitted.

Exemptions from Secondary Containment

"Existing" tank systems (pre-1991) without secondary containment are required to have an annual integrity assessment performed by a registered professional engineer.

Other Exemptions

Small Quantity Generators (those who generate less than 1000 kg of hazardous waste per month (including wastewater to be treated) are subject to different requirements under 40 CFR 265.201. Contact your inspector for more information or call HMD's Hazardous Materials Duty Desk at 619-338-2231.

Romina López

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Still undecided about the degree she wanted to pursue, Romina enrolled in Southwestern Community College where she took several classes, including physics. She liked it so much that she decided she was going to study the sciences.

By the time Romina transferred to UCSD she had narrowed her interest to Environmental Chemistry because she felt that it was the perfect combination of traditional science with social science. During college Romina began working at an environmental consulting company here in San Diego to help pay for her college expenses.

She graduated from UCSD in March of 2000, making her the third college graduate in her family. Her oldest sister has a Ph.D. in engineering from UC Davis and is a University professor in Nevada. Her younger sister just received a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard University. The year after Romina graduated, her brother obtained his degree in Electrical Engineering from UCLA. He is currently working in San Diego.

Upon graduation, Romina was hired full time as an environmental chemist at a local environmental company and she was charged with verifying that the proper documentation was completed for the disposal and transportation of hazardous waste throughout the United States. At this job Romina acquired experience that was instrumental in making her a successful candidate when she applied for the Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) position at HMD, where she was hired in October 2001. Romina was quickly promoted to an EHS II and is currently conducting compliance inspections at businesses that store hazardous materials, generate hazardous and medical wastes or operate underground storage tanks.

In addition to her inspections of permitted businesses, Romina conducts transporter inspections in close coordination with US Customs at the Otay Mesa Border. She verifies that hazardous wastes generated in maquiladoras in México are brought back to the US for proper disposal. Working in this project is very important to Romina because she feels very strongly that the natural resources in Mexico should be protected and not abused by manufacturing companies.

While her duties at work keep her busy, Romina has a very busy life away from work. She likes to do a little bit of everything. Each year she is looking for a new adventure.

This January, her New Year's resolution was to train for a triathlon. She embraced her project with fierce determination and trained every day after work to be able to compete. Romina finished her first sprint distance triathlon just a few weeks ago. As she puts it "It was really hard, I placed last in my age group, but I finished! I can't wait to do another one."

USEFUL HMD PHONE NUMBERS

Hazardous Materials Duty Desk
619-338-2231

Hazardous Materials Business Plan Check
619-338-2232

HMD Permitting Section
619-338-2251

Underground Storage Tank Appointment Scheduling
619-338-2214

General Underground Storage Tank (UST) Permitting Info.
619-237-8451

UST Plan Check
619-338-2207

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John Kolb Supervising EHS South County	Nick Vent Supervising EHS Emergency Response	Mike Vizzier Supervising EHS Central County

VISIT HMD's WEBSITE
http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/hmd/index.html

HMD VISITS LOCAL SCHOOLS TO TALK TO YOUNG STUDENTS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

By Gloria Estolano,
Environmental Health Specialist III

Looking for a way to contribute to the young student community, the HMD decided a few years ago to visit local elementary, middle and high schools to let students know about careers in the Environmental Health field.

Getting students interested in sciences at an early age allows them to plan ahead and take science classes that will be required for their transfer to college. It also gives them a taste for the different fields of science and how it relates to actual careers offered in college, so they can make an informed decision when choosing a field of study.

The visit of HMD's Environmental Health Specialists consists of a Power Point presentation in the classroom and a field demonstration of an emergency response vehicle, the testing equipment that is used to respond to chemical emergencies, and (the student's favorite part), a chance to try on some of the personal protective gear used by the emergency responders.

Schools we visited this year:
Bonita Vista High School
Hilltop High School
Kearny High School
New Horizons Elementary School

HMD visits Bonita Vista High School
Ellen Schulte and Tony Torres visited three of Dr. Michelle Mardahl's Honors Biology classes and talked to students about the importance of science for careers in the Environmental Health field. Above, Crystina Baum and one of her classmates try some of the personal protective equipment that Environmental Health Specialists working in the Emergency Response Program may use while responding to chemical emergencies.

Last year HMD visited a number of middle and high schools with such success that our Specialists were ready to do it again this year.

The original plan for each team of Environmental Health Specialists was to visit one science class, but there was so much interest when the visits were being scheduled that HMD's teams ende d up presenting information at various classes during the day of their visit.

HMD Specialists look forward to participating in this project again next spring!

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Please send your comments about this newsletter or suggestions for upcoming articles to the editor at : Gloria.Estolano@sdcounty.ca.gov

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